

MOMENTUM

Uniquely Macomb County, Michigan
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Stacey Frankovich

Helping students on the path to entrepreneurship

By Jane Peterson

With a Bachelor of Arts in healthcare administration, Stacey Frankovich

has carved out a unique career path, working as special education assistant for Clarkston Community Schools, coordinator for the Ideas to Business program at Oakland University School of Business and then market development manager for the Macomb-Oakland University INCubator.

Today Frankovich is director at the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CIE) at Macomb Community College. The CIE is a comprehensive resource for both students and community members who seek entrepreneurship education and training, mentorships and capital funding for projects. It sponsors various workshops and pitch competitions for student entrepreneurs as well as houses the Macomb Innovation Fund, supported by JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Macomb Community College's Strategic Fund.

Frankovich said entrepreneurship is a unique space and she wanted to be involved as students build, improve, innovate, revise, fund and take their projects to market.

Q What is mission of the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship?



Stacey Frankovich

A The CIE supports and mentors students and community members as they pursue their entrepreneurship goals. It helps to stimulate economic development and provides access to capital funding for startups.

Q What is the Innovation Fund?

A It is a pre-seed fund that helps fund innovative technology-focused start-up companies with high growth potential while in an early stage of development. There was a gap in this area as most start-up funding is awarded at the end of the process because investing earlier on is riskier. Companies awarded funding are required to provide educational experiences to Macomb students, which include internships.

Q How does the CIE benefit from its location in Macomb County?

A CIE is all about education. It's a useful, interesting opportunity for students to understand problem-solving and engage in entrepreneurship activities. There are so many opportunities available to students in Macomb County. They will be able to go to a variety of industries with the skills they have learned.

Q What does the future hold for your organization in Macomb County?

A The future looks bright. We want to continue to engage students and work with collaborative partners to watch their startup businesses grow and succeed.

Q What Macomb County organizations are you involved in both personally and professionally?

A I collaborate with a number of local resources professionally, including Macomb County Economic Development and Planning, Macomb-Oakland INCubator and the defense sector. Personally, I serve on the Michigan Board of Medicine. **M**

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